

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
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IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 282132Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 28, 1975:

Q. DID SECRETARY KISSINGER SIDETRACK A DEAL FOR THE SALE
OF F-15'S TO ISRAEL PRIOR TO HIS LAST TRIP TO THE MIDDLE
EAST ON THIS NEGOTIATING TOUR?

A. WELL, MARILYN, YOU ALL KNOW, NUMBER ONE, THAT IT IS OUR
POLICY NOT TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY
POLICY WITH FOREIGN STATES. I HAVE NO PARTICULAR COMMENT
ON THAT BALTIMORE SUN STORY, OTHER THAN TO REPEAT OUR
POLICY REVIEW IS PROCEEDING, AND THE QUESTION OF AID LEVELS
WOULD BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED.
I AM USING OTHER WORDS TO SAY IN ESSENCE WHAT THE
SECRETARY SAID AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH REGARD TO
AID LEVELS.

Q. AID LEVELS WILL BE WHAT?

A. WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE REVIEW HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

Q. WELL, NOW, THIS SEEMS TO BE -- A DECISION WAS ALREADY
TAKEN ON THE F-15'S, IN THAT A DELEGATION OF ISRAELIS
WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE COME HERE. THAT WAS POSTPONED.
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DOES THE RE-EVALUATION OR RE-ASSESSMENT OF POLICY ACT
IN AN EX POST FACTO WAY?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY MORE COMMENT ON THIS STORY
THAT YOU ARE READING FROM. AND WITH REGARD TO THE RE-
ASSESSMENT, I ADDRESSED MYSELF TO THAT THREE OR FOUR
DAYS AGO. THE SECRETARY HAS ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO IT.
I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO PREDICT OR SPECULATE ON WHAT

THE POLICY REVIEW OR RE-ASSESSMENT IS GOING TO BE. IT IS GOING ON NOW. AND I AM JUST NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY.

Q. YOU ARE NOT DENYING THE STORY, IN OTHER WORDS. THE BURDEN OF YOUR REMARKS IS TO LEAVE THE STORY STAND. IS THAT THE CORRECT READING?

A. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

Q. YOU WILL NOT DENY THAT THIS STORY IS --

A. I JUST HAVE NO COMMENT.

Q. BEFORE THE STANDS OF THE DESERT GROW COLD, COULD I JUST ASK A VERY SIMPLE QUESTION, AS TO MECHANICALLY WHERE IS THE REVIEW NOW?

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU MECHANICALLY THE DETAILS OF IT. I DON'T HAVE ALL THE DETAILS. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT OBVIOUSLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE COORDINATOR, IF YOU WILL, OF THIS POLICY REVIEW OR REASSESSMENT. IT HAS BEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT HAS BEEN MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I HAVE NO OTHER DETAILS AT THIS TIME. I MEAN, THE PRESIDENT SAID IN HIS FIRST INTERVIEW THAT THE STUDY IS PROCEEDING. I HAVE MENTIONED IT HERE, THAT IT IS PROCEEDING. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG IT

IS GOING TO TAKE.

Q. NO GROUP IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IS DOING THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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GATHERING FROM OTHER --

A. FRANKLY, I THINK THINGS ARE STILL BEING SET UP.

Q. CAN I FOLLOW THAT UP? YOU SAID THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL BE THE COORDINATOR. IS IT NOT THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TO BRING TOGETHER REPORTS OF ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, OR IS THAT SWITCHED OVER NOW TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. NO -- YOU ARE QUITE CORRECT. OBVIOUSLY THIS IS A REASSESSMENT THAT HAS BEEN CALLED FOR BY THE PRESIDENT. AND SO THE RESULTS OF THE REASSESSMENT OBVIOUSLY WILL GO TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS REVIEW AND EVENTUAL DECISION ON ANYTHING THAT MAY BE RECOMMENDED.

Q. BUT WAIT. YOU SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL BE THE COORDINATOR. AND THIS IS A VERY INTERESTING BUREAUCRATIC CHANGE. AND I WONDER NOW THAT THE NSC ADVISOR SITS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SWITCH.

A. NO. I DID NOT WISH TO INDICATE AT ALL THAT THE NSC SUDDENLY HAS NOTHING MORE TO DO -- IT IS THE SAME KIND OF PROCESS WILL BE USED THAT EXISTS. BUT OBVIOUSLY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL PLAY A COORDINATING ROLE ON BEHALF OF THE NSC --

Q. THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO KNOW.

A. I DO'N'T HAVE THE DETAILS.

Q. LET ME PUT THE QUESTION. ARE REPORTS FROM DEFENSE, CIA, OR WHOEVER ELSE MAY BE INVOLVED IN THIS REASSESSMENT, GOING TO BE FILTERED THROUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THEY GO TO THE NSC?

A. I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD BE THE USUAL WAY, THROUGH THE NSC. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I JUST GOT THROUGH SAYING THAT I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT MECHANICS THAT HAVE BEEN SET UP. IT IS JUST BEING SET UP.
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Q. DOES THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONCUR WITH THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY THAT ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE SHOWN MORE FLEXIBILITY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS?

A. ON THIS I THINK, FIRST OF ALL, I AM NOT GOING TO ADDRESS MYSELF TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. I DON'T THINK THAT IS MY ROLE HERE. I UNDERSTAND MR. NESSEN IS. JUST LET ME SAY AS A GENERAL COMMENT THAT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT. I MEAN YOU CAN ASSUME THAT.

Q. BOB, I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT FOR A MOMENT.

Q. YOU SAY THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT -- WE CAN TAKE IT TO BE THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE DOES AGREE THAT ISRAEL SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE.

A. I WOULD RATHER, ON THIS -- THE SECRETARY HAS ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE NEGOTIATIONS NUMEROUS TIMES ON THE RECORD. I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND IT. I JUST HAVE

NOTHING TO ADD. HE HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT BOTH SIDES MADE A VERY SERIOUS EFFORT IN TRYING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE DIFFERENCES JUST COULD NOT BE RECONCILED. AND FUTHERMORE THE SECRETARY HAS SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING AND READY TO DO ANYTHING IT CAN TO TRY AND HELP THE PARTIES MOVE TOWARD PEACE. AND I DON'T WISH TO GO ANY FURTHER. I DON'T THINK ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED.

Q. CAN I FOLLOW THAT UP? DOES THE SECRETARY FEEL THAT IF EGYPT HAD BEEN MORE FLEXIBLE THERE COULD HAVE BEEN AN AGREEMENT?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GO BACK INTO THE PAST.

Q. YOU WOULD RATHER STICK WITH WHAT IS ON THE RECORD.

A. WITH WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS SAID.

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Q. THE ISRAELIS SEEM TO BE INTERESTED IN A RENEWED AMERICAN MEDIATION EFFORT. DID YOU GET ANYTHING OFFICIALLY ON THAT FROM EITHER JERUSALEM OR ANY ECHO ON THAT SUBJECT FROM CAIRO?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY.

Q. BOB, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON PRAVDA'S AND OTHER SOVIET NEWSPAPERS' USE OF EXCERPTS FROM THE ARAB PRESS ALL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS BEHIND THE

ASSASSINATION OF KING FAISAL?

A. I HAVE HEARD OF THESE REPORTS, AND ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THE WHOLE THING IS JUST UTTER NONSENSE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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